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Dwight MacDonald, one of the more honest of the left-wing journalists, has chastised fellow-intellectuals for attempting to pin the assassination of President Kennedy on the lunatic right.

"Oswald is our baby, not theirs," says MacDonald.

As a result, MacDonald will undoubtedly suffer the slings and arrows of certain know-it-alls who cannot bring themselves to believe that someone of the "progressive" faith might have brutally murdered Mr. Kennedy on the streets of Dallas.

Naturally, to their way of thinking, the foul deed had to have been perpetrated by an evil rightist.

The left wing is not of one mind about Lee Harvey Oswald, however. The pro-Castro weekly *National Guardian*, for example, is arguing that the accused assassin was apparently the victim of a rightist-engineered frame-up. Of course, this argument presupposes that the FBI and the Secret Service are involved in a monstrous plot to cover up for the real assassins.

On the other hand the Communist party *Worker* acknowledges that Oswald may have been the killer, but the Khrushchev organ vehemently denies Oswald's connections with the left. In fact, the *Worker* has suggested that Oswald was, in reality, a right-wing agent in the employ of the FBI and the CIA.

Meanwhile, the Warren Commission has decided to probe the activities of a so-called right wing group recently accused of having threatened the lives of 20 congressmen who had voted against appropriations for the House Committee on Un-American

Activities. Counsel J. Lee Rankin said the Commission would explore any relationship between the Minutemen, a para-military group, and the events of last November 22.

But the FBI report on Oswald, now in the hands of the Warren Commission, in effect fully exonerates the so-called right wing from any involvement in the President's assassination. In fact, the FBI report fully explores Oswald's direct links with leftist-liberal groups such as the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The FBI report also makes it clear that, in all probability, the assassination was not the product of a conspiracy, but rather the end product of a tortured, psychopathic mind. Oswald's psychiatric history, ranging from the streets on the Bronx through service in the Marine Corps and defection to the Soviet Union, is thoroughly explored.

Dwight MacDonald's remark came as a result of a column by "TRB" (actually Richard L. Strout of the *Christian Science Monitor*) in the *New Republic*. Strout, alias "TRB," concluded an item on the broadcasting network of the so-called right as follows: "They are the kind of programs . . . that the brooding Oswalds of the left or right wing listen to and sometimes act on."

MacDonald, one of our liveliest intellectual journalists, took umbrage. In a letter to the *New Republic*, MacDonald observed that "the awkward

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thing for liberals about Oswald was that he was a crackpot leftist—it now appears he did take an unsuccessful shot at General Walker." And MacDonald concluded:

"There may be 'brooding Oswalds' of the right, but so far they have not taken action, which, as an old-fashioned believer in the Bill of Rights, I think is the important thing. The only Oswald we have had was on the left, and I think there's enough to criticize in the broadcasting activities of Messrs. Hunt, Hargis, et al., without smearing them with the Dallas horror. That's what we Trotskyists in the thirties used to call 'an amalgam,' and a dirty word it was. I agree it was a great pity that the assassin turned out to be not a lunatic Birchite, as we all assumed in that first hour of shock, but a lunatic Marxist." But such was the fact. Oswald is our baby, not theirs."

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